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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,049	11/17/2003	Joseph E. Khoury	115585-00103	1135
27557	7590	06/29/2005	EXAMINER	
BLANK ROME LLP 600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20037			NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/713,049	Applicant(s) KHOURY ET AL.	
	Examiner Phuongchi Nguyen	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAIL ACTION

### *Oath/Declaration*

1. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because: The spelling of one inventor is missed spelling "J seph E. Khoury" instead of -- Joseph E. Khoury --.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kazuhiro Takei (US3544743).

In regard to claim 1, Takei discloses a contact assembly comprising a first circuit board (7) having at least one vertically extending arm, the arm including a resilient contact (adjacent 10) thereon (figure 2) for non-fixedly engaging a corresponding contact on a second circuit board (5) being adapted to cooperate with buttons on the steering wheel to actuate various vehicle functions.

In regard to claim 5, Takei further discloses a secondary circuit board (5) which is (electrical) connected to the resilient contacts (adjacent 10) on the at least one arm of the primary circuit board (7), such that the secondary circuit board (5) lies in a second plane (a parallel plane with arm of board 7), that is offset from the first plane (of board 7).

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oguma (US6733300B2).

In regard to claim 1, Oguma discloses a contact assembly comprising a first circuit board (19) having at least one vertically extending arm, the arm including a resilient contact thereon (figure 13) for non-fixedly engaging a corresponding contact on a second circuit board (18 or 3) (figure 5) being adapted to cooperate with buttons on the steering wheel to actuate various vehicle functions.

In regard to claim 2, Oguma discloses the contact assembly wherein the vertically extending arm (19d) is generally L-shaped, the top shelf (19a) having the resilient contact thereon (figure 13).

In regard to claim 3, Oguma discloses the contact assembly wherein the resilient contact (19d) is a leaf-spring contact (the contact is a piece of metal, and it, by itself, has elasticity).

In regard to claim 4, Oguma discloses the contact assembly wherein the base (18) having an opening (where contact 19d located) (figure 13).

In regard to claim 5, Oguma further discloses a (mating) secondary circuit board which is (electrical) connected to the resilient contacts (19d) on the at least one arm of the primary circuit board (3), such that the (mating) secondary circuit board lies in a second plane (is parallel plane with board 3, but offset because the secondary circuit board connected at the end 19c) that is offset from the first plane (of board 3).

In regard to claim 6, Oguma discloses wherein the at least one arm (19d) is generally L-shaped and has a shelf lying adjacent to the (mating) second circuit board, and the resilient contacts (19d) are located on the shelf.

Claim 7 is rejected for the same reason as claim 3.

In regard to claim 8, Oguma discloses wherein the button assembly includes a housing having at least one cavity therein, the at least one cavity holding at least one button which controls a vehicle function, the at least one button having a pin extending through the cavity for engaging the second circuit board.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

5. Claims 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regard to claim 9, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a base of the button assembly lies between one arm and the secondary circuit board, an opening of the base allows the resilient contacts to protrude therethrough to engage the contacts of the secondary circuit board.

In regard to claim 10, the prior art fails to teach or suggest two wings of the primary circuit board extending in generally opposite directions therefrom, each wing has one arm for engaging the secondary circuit board, and two button assemblies located on opposite sides of the center of the steering wheel for cooperating with each arm of the primary circuit board.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kidd et al (US4638131) and Parker et al (US2004/0095739A1) are cited to show in the steering wheel art having a electric circuit and cable.

Art Unit: 2833


*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchi Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2012. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PCN  
June 27, 2005

  
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800